

Central Pima Regional Partnership Council

Call to Order & Introductions

The Regular Meeting of the First Things First Central Pima Regional Partnership Council was held on February 13, 2013 at City of Tucson Resource Campus Sentinel Building, 320 North Commerce Park Loop, Tucson, Arizona, 85745.

Chair Peg Harmon welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. Chair Harmon called upon Regional Council members and staff to briefly introduce themselves.

Members Present: Peg Harmon, Dr. Dorothy Johnson, David Hill, Bob Hehli, Susan Pitt, and Kelly Burroughs

Members Present Telephonically: Teri Meléndez

Members Absent: George Rushing

Others Present: Jessica Brisson, Central Pima Regional Director, Erin Lyons, Senior Director of the Southeast Area, Dr. Lisa Colling, Program Evaluation Specialist, Kristen Richardson, Program Data Analyst, and Siobhan McDonald, Administrative Assistant

Chair Harmon called for a motion to re-arrange the agenda in the interest of accomplishing necessary business as retaining quorum may prove difficult for this meeting.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Dorothy Johnson to move agenda item 5 (Needs and Assets) to 3, and 8 (Cancellation of March Meeting) to 4, moving the rest down until it resumes normal order at agenda item 9 (Director's Report), seconded by member Kelly Burroughs. Motion Carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Vice Chair Dorothy Johnson to amend the minutes by adding the phrase "at this time" to the sentence regarding longitudinal study appropriateness, seconded by member Susan Pitt. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by member David Hill to amend the minutes by omitting the descriptor phrase "intensely political" from the sentence regarding issues of data tracking, seconded by Vice Chair Dorothy Johnson. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Dorothy Johnson to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2013 Central Pima Regional Council Meeting with amended sentences and the correction of a typographical error on page 2, seconded by member David Hill. Motion Carried.

Discussion & Possible Action: Selection of the 2014 Needs and Assets Vendor

Chair Harmon began this agenda item by giving an overview of the Needs and Assets vendor process. She then turned the floor over to Regional Director Jessica Brisson, who added specific information about the recent vendor Donelson Consulting's capacity and information on the other option available to Central Pima. Vice Chair Johnson shared her impression of the quality of Donelson's work, and member Meléndez requested that the vendor make an electronic copy available. Ms. Brisson stated she would send the link for the electronic versions of the current and past reports out to the members.

A motion was made by member Susan Pitt that we (the Central Pima Regional Partnership Council) approve (a) contract with Donelson Consulting again for 2014 (for the Needs & Assets Report), seconded by Vice Chair Dorothy Johnson. Motion Carried. Ms. Brisson stated she would invite the vendor to the April meeting to discuss the base report and additional work.

Discussion and Possible Action: Cancellation of the March 13, 2013 Central Pima Regional Council Meeting

Chair Harmon introduced the agenda item and stated that with the Board dialog meeting the week prior and no necessary business in March, the Regional Council has the option to cancel the regular March meeting. Vice Chair Johnson asked which members were planning on attending March 6, and that she will attend. Chair Harmon and member Pitt both said they would attend, and member Burroughs will make an effort to attend.

A motion was made by member Susan Pitt to cancel the March meeting, seconded by member Kelly Burroughs. Motion Carried.

Call to the Public

Lisette DeMars, *Parent Awareness & Community Outreach Coordinator, First Things First*: Ms. DeMars presented a copy of the monthly outreach report and highlighted recent and upcoming events. She shared a story on the report regarding Greater Tucson Leadership's Education Day and encouraged the Regional Council to share any ideas for further outreach opportunities with her.

Jordana Saletan, *Easter Seals Blake Foundation, Smart Support*: Ms. Saletan introduced herself to the Regional Council. She provided a few updates about the Smart Support Program in Central Pima, namely that all four staff have a full caseload and each have an additional case above their targeted service unit. This means each is currently serving eight centers. She also shared a success story about one of the teachers a Mental Health Consultant has been working with, and the growth the teacher has seen and experienced since participating in the program.

McREL Early Childhood Workforce Targeted Regional Evaluation Study

Chair Harmon introduced the agenda item and stated that Kristin Richardson and Lisa Colling are here to take feedback from the executive summary and full report to McREL. Kristin Richardson stated that their objective today was to take feedback from the Regional Council to McREL, and representatives from McREL would be attending the April meeting in person. Members asked questions around cost of evaluation (\$120,000) and the evaluators other experience and clients in Arizona (Department of Education, a separate study not affiliated with First Things First.) Members also had discussion with staff members present regarding what the final report from the evaluators will provide, namely: the cost effectiveness of the program being implemented, cost analysis (listed in pre-report) versus cost effectiveness, a reminder that this is an evaluation not research, study; comparison between before and after (not specifically, because new hybrid program), and that the study will be looking at design as well as implementation. A reminder of the Request For Proposal process that selects the evaluator was also given. Kirsten Richardson also reinforced to the regional council that they share their expectations with the staff of McREL when they attend the next meeting, and reminded them this is a knowledge building process. Chair Harmon also shared that if she were working directly with this evaluator, she would find the study timeline on pages 15-17 (of the meeting packet) sub-par. Discussion was had around this and members determined interim reports would be desirable. Members also conversed regarding the bigger picture of what impact the program is having on children, and what outcomes one can expect from this study. Members also expressed a desire to have answers to the "Strategy evaluation questions" listed on the timetable beginning on page 13. Members thanked Ms. Richardson and Dr. Colling for attending and answering questions.

Update from the February 7, 2013 Chairs Meeting

Chair Peg Harmon introduced the agenda item and turned the floor over to Dorothy Johnson. Vice Chair Johnson shared information and highlights from the Chair & Vice Chair meeting regarding Quality First Scholarships, systems building collaborations in other regions in the state, and benchmarking of the School Readiness Indicators. Ms. Brisson added to the remarks on benchmarking. Vice Chair Johnson provided an update on the communications plan and shared one meeting attendee's idea for a new tagline "A parent is born every day." Ms. Brisson added an update on discretionary funding and how the feedback from Central Pima was really in alignment with other Regional Councils across the state.

Member Melendez left the meeting at approximately 5:39 p.m.

Update and Discussion: March 6, 2013 Board Dialog with the Six Southeast Area Regional Councils

Chair Harmon introduced the agenda item and turned the floor over to Ms. Brisson. Ms. Brisson explained which State Board members were attending and gave the updates event information. She stated she was looking for a sense of questions for the Board and highlights they would like to be shared from their region. Members concurred with the Arizona Department of Health Services Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visitation (MIECHV) and FTF Central Pima partnership to offer Nurse Family Partnership; Innovative Professional Development cross-regional collaboration across the five regions in Pima County; and real intentional, cross-regional work with South Pima and North Pima as highlights. She then asked members for questions for the Board, and provided the question that had been asked recently regarding Quality First rating system and how that would affect those centers who are not enrolled. Members discussed and shared their ideas, including: Quality First sustainability beyond regional funding; What are things beyond funding programs that the council can do to educate anyone who is a provider of child care such as Family, Friend and Neighbor caregivers) with the most up-to-date information; and a concern that the vast majority of people still do not know about First Things First. Chair Harmon agreed to be lead representative for Regional Council at the meeting as long as she can speak early on the agenda.

Regional Director's Report

Ms. Brisson provided updates regarding: the January 22 and 23, 2013 State Board meeting, Regional Boundary Taskforce, Quality First Scholarships and ratings, the Renewal Process for FY14, the Family, Friend and Neighbor strategy, regional evaluation, and upcoming events. Members had discussion around the Regional Boundaries Task Force. She touched on the expenditure report and a few points from Quarter Two Program Narrative Report.

General Discussion

Chair Harmon stated she wanted to offer an opportunity to and a "brainstorm" agenda item at a future meeting on more big picture /idea building topics and subjects. Member Hill shared his thoughts on some of the ideas fellow members had brought up at the last meeting regarding giving attention to fewer than all indicators and what are other community partners giving. He reiterated his concern over the effect of the Quality First rating for non-enrolled centers, and talked about the tensions between state and local decision making and concerns. He specified that he does not want to be just a rubber stamp he wants to make a difference. Chair Harmon clarified that she heard his concern about tensions between statewide expectations and regional outcomes/ideas. Member Hill stated he felt it was a "healthy tension and spoke about the different between evidence based and if it actually works. He then spoke about Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) school closures, and how his idea was most likely "shelved" due to bureaucracy. He ended by stating he wants to make resources available for parents who want just as much for children as we'd like to give. Senior Director Lyons addressed the Regional Council regarding Member Hill's remark regarding TUSD, and state that the idea was not shelved, that CEO Rhian Evans Allyin had met with TUSD Superintendent Pedicone, and provided update for that point. She then spoke regarding healthy tensions, the board's long term vision and that of the regional councils, and briefly touched upon systems building. Administrative Assistant Siobhan McDonald informed the Regional Council of her upcoming two week absence, saying they should direct anything they need help with administratively to her colleague Vanessa Verduzco.

Call to the Public

None at this time.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Vice Chair Dorothy Johnson to adjourn the meeting, seconded by member Kelly Burroughs. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:33 p.m.

Submitted By _____
Siobhan McDonald, Administrative Assistant

Approved By _____
Peg Harmon, Chair

Dated this ____ day of _____, 20____.